

as inside partitions. The leaves are palmately divided, like those of the horse-chestnut, and it is sometimes called the 'five leaves silk cotton' to distinguish it from *Ochroma* and others which produce a silky fiber. The trunks of young trees of this species are beset with large, conical spines, but in age these fall away and are to be found only on the branches. The trunk is further transformed by the growth of prominent wings or buttresses, sometimes 2 feet (0.6 meter) wide, while but a few inches thick. In west Africa, where this tree is larger and more luxuriant, pieces of these supporting wings are sawed out and used as doors of native houses. The fiber surrounding the seeds of this and related species is the 'Kapok' of commerce, and is exported in considerable quantities from the west coast of Africa." (*Cook and Collins. Economic Plants of Porto Rico, 1903, p. 111.*)

" 'Kapok' has come into use very largely in certain European countries in recent years, notably in Germany and Holland, as a material for stuffing cushions, pillows, chairs, bedding, and similar articles. For such purposes its nonhygroscopic character and its softness and resiliency render it peculiarly suitable. It is also stated to be less absorbent and less liable to harbor insect parasites than the materials generally employed in upholstery, and, according to the authorities of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, it can be sterilized by heat at least three times without being seriously damaged, whereas feathers and other upholstery materials do not usually survive this treatment more than twice." (*Indian Vegetable Flosses or "Silk Cottons." Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, vol. 3, 1905, p. 223.*)

Distribution.—A tall tree found in the forests throughout the warmer parts of India and Ceylon; also in tropical Africa, the West Indies, and South America.

31394. *CRYPTOMERIA JAPONICA* (L. f.) D. Don.

From Yokohama, Japan. Purchased from the Yokohama Nursery Co. Received July 8, 1911.

See No. 2922 for description.

31395 and 31396.

From Foochow, China. Presented by Mr. T. M. Wilkinson. Received July 5, 1911.

Seeds of the following; quoted notes by Mr. Wilkinson:

31395. *MEDICAGO LUPULINA* L.

Black medick.

"A clover with low-growing stems, inclined to lie along the ground and take root at joints. Starts in new places like white clover. Leaf about the size of white clover. Blossom yellow; seed grows on stem something like alfalfa instead of in head like red or white clover. It may be well to experiment with it carefully, for if it is not found to be of value as a forage or pasture plant it may prove to be as much of a pest as the sweet clover is in some of the States."

31396. *TRITICUM AESTIVUM* L.

Wheat.

"This is planted here the last of November and December; it grows during the rainy season and ripens during the humid spring season. Seems to be rust-proof and does not blight easily. Straw quite stiff and strong. May prove to be a valuable variety of winter wheat for the Southern States."

31397. *CAPSICUM* sp.

Red pepper.

From Paraguay. Presented by Mr. C. F. Mead, Villa Encarnacion. Received July 12, 1911.

"Called in Guarany *Kucii*. A very small and very strong pepper, a good rival for, if not stronger than, the tabasco pepper. Found growing wild in the mountains of Paraguay, but I know nothing of the plant or habit of its growth, as the seeds were procured for me by Indians near the yerbales of Alta Parana." (*Mead.*)